

Child Welfare

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Purpose	<p>Child welfare services are directed at three outcomes – safety for children at risk, permanency, and child and family well-being.</p>																						
Who	<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around;"> <div data-bbox="438 325 909 766"> <p>Abuse/Neglect by Age</p> <table border="1"> <caption>Abuse/Neglect by Age</caption> <thead> <tr> <th>Age Group</th> <th>Percentage</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>5 and under</td> <td>50%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>6 - 11</td> <td>31%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>12 - 16</td> <td>17%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>17+</td> <td>2%</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> </div> <div data-bbox="958 325 1477 766"> <p>Abuse/Neglect by Type</p> <table border="1"> <caption>Abuse/Neglect by Type</caption> <thead> <tr> <th>Type</th> <th>Percentage</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Denial of Critical Care</td> <td>79.7%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Physical</td> <td>9.4%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Sexual</td> <td>3.8%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>PID*</td> <td>4.5%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Other</td> <td>2.6%</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p><small>* PID is Presence of Illegal Drugs in child's body</small></p> <p style="text-align: right;">SFY2011</p> </div> </div>	Age Group	Percentage	5 and under	50%	6 - 11	31%	12 - 16	17%	17+	2%	Type	Percentage	Denial of Critical Care	79.7%	Physical	9.4%	Sexual	3.8%	PID*	4.5%	Other	2.6%
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What	<p><u>The department:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Investigates reports of child abuse to determine if the child is safe and whether abuse has occurred. During calendar 2010, DHS completed 26,413 child abuse assessments. Two-thirds of assessments show no abuse or neglect; 25 percent are “founded” and perpetrators are placed on the child abuse registry, and 8 percent are “confirmed” in less-serious cases. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> For details, see separate one-page “child welfare by the numbers.” http://www.dhs.state.ia.us/docs/childwelfarebynumbers2010.pdf Provides services to maintain safety at home for children who have been abused or neglected. If safety at home is not possible, the department arranges temporary out-of-home placement, first seeking relatives to help. Other options include family foster care. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provides permanency services, including family reunification and adoption. Assists foster care youth aged 16 to 18 to prepare for adulthood, and provides extensive support for aged-out youth. 																						
How are we doing?	<p><u>Recent highlights:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Creation (in 2010) of a single centralized intake unit to evaluate abuse complaints, helping to prevent regional variations in decision-making. Expanded use of family team meetings to engage families. Also expanded use of “parent partners” to provide guidance and support by peers. Consistently low rate of repeat maltreatment. But federal standards continue to rise and Iowa (and all states) need improvement as measured in the Child and Family Service Review. http://www.dhs.state.ia.us/docs/8.10_IA_CFSR_Exit_Conference_Presentation.pdf#search='cfsr' Regular public reporting of Iowa’s performance compared to federal benchmarks. https://dhssecure.dhs.state.ia.us/digitaldashboard/ Results-based child welfare service contracts that provide more flexible individualized services for children and families, and which provide incentives for results. Permanency for older youth. Surveys show “aged out” foster youth have needs met when they participate in DHS aftercare programs, including Preparation for Adult Living that provides stipends. 																						